

GERMAN PROPERTY HELD BY U. S. MAY BE RETURNED SOON

Transfer Predicated on Assumption That Lusitania Claims Will Be Paid.

CONGRESS MUST ACT.

New Custodian to Spare Litigation for Early Settlement to Aid Business.

By David Lawrence.

(Special Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, March 25 (Copyright, 1921).—The early return to their rightful owners of vast amounts of German property held in the United States appears to be in prospect. Congressional action is necessary before the transfer can be made, but the trend of opinion in the Harding Administration is toward giving back what was seized as a war measure.

Meanwhile the policy of the new Alien Property Custodian, Col. Thomas W. Miller, as explained to the writer to-day, is to settle up as quickly as possible all questions for which authority is vested in him under existing laws.

"There are some enemy insurance companies," he said, "which will probably have to be operated by us for some years to come, but most of these companies can be liquidated at once and the proceeds returned to the German owners. It is unlikely that they would wish to operate as German concerns again anyway."

Col. Miller was drafted for the job of Alien Property Custodian by President Harding because of his remarkable executive ability. He won his military rank overseas, having enlisted as a private and working up to the staff of Gen. Kuhn of the 79th Division. President Harding felt that in appointing Col. Miller, who has been active in the affairs of the American Legion, there could be no suspicion of pro-German leanings in any of his decisions.

TIME RIPE TO RETURN PROPERTY TO GERMANS.

Anybody who talks with Col. Miller on the subject of enemy property, however, will find that he believes the time is ripe to give back to the German owners the property taken from them. He is loath to criticize his predecessors in the Alien Property Custodian's office, but he has already instituted some sweeping changes.

The new Alien Property Custodian has found, for instance, large lawyers' fees charged to the yearly proceeds of certain companies now held by American trustees, and has made up his mind that all excessive charges shall be reduced whether Republican or Democratic law firms are involved. Col. Miller believes that it is the American spirit to be fair to individuals even though they be Germans.

Already there have been many cases settled which would have required prolonged litigation. The policy of

EASTER TOGS COST DAD \$400,000,000, EXPERT FIGURES

And Adds Men Spent Nearly as Much For Suits as Women Did For Gowns, &c.

EASTER hats and frocks for the women of America this spring have cost more than \$200,000,000—and the men have spent almost as much on new suits and ties and things—according to James Gould, retail editor of Women's Wear.

He thinks it has been the greatest Easter buying season in history, and the buying has been done not only in the fashion centers, but along "Main Street" of all small towns.

"Gray and henna shades," he says, speaking of hats for women, "will predominate, and the colors for suits will be mostly gray and blue. Frocks will be less 'radical.'"

The buying wave, he says, is accounted for by falling prices.

The new Administration is to spare litigation and bring about early settlements so that business may proceed, for while many concerns are enemy owned they employ American citizens. The revival of trade and commerce depends to no small extent upon the restoration of millions of dollars' worth of property to the lawful owners.

EXPECT GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO PAY AMERICANS' CLAIMS.

Of course the transfer of all this property back to the Germans is predicated on the assumption that the German Government will pay the claims lodged by American citizens who lost relatives in the sinking of the Lusitania or who lost property in Germany during the war. The expectation is that Germany will settle these claims, but if not, then it is planned to liquidate as much of the assets of Germans in this country as possible and use the proceeds to pay American citizens who suffered at the hands of the Germans. One of the difficulties, however, from the German viewpoint is that France and the Allied powers have a prior claim on any money that Germany may have available to pay war claims and unless America can reach an agreement with the associated powers on that point, the only way the United States Government can avoid using the German assets in this country is to make a loan to Germany, but of which claims would be paid.

This, however, will be developed definitely when the American Government begins negotiating with Germany on the settlement of all questions growing out of the war. Congressional action will necessarily be delayed somewhat until foreign relations are cleared up. Meanwhile banking groups in New York are back of a plan whereby the assets of the Germans held in this country shall be used as a basis of credit for the immediate resumption of trade with Germany when peace is finally made. Assuming that the Berlin and Washington Governments have reached a settlement on war claims, the early return may be expected of the German property or the use of as much of it as collateral as may be sanctioned by the German citizens in co-operation with the German Government.

Beets Anti-Trespass Bill Reported Out.

ALBANY, March 25.—The Beets "anti-trespass" bill, aimed to protect farmers from the activities of unscrupulous sportsmen, was reported out by the Assembly Committee to-day. The measure clearly defines trespass and fixes heavy penalties for violations. It provides that the land owner shall receive one-half of the fine imposed.

CITY INJUNCTION HALTS INCREASE IN TELEPHONE RATES

O'Brien Attacks Powers of P. S. C. in Application for a Temporary Writ.

Supreme Court Justice Newburger to-day granted the application of Corporation Counsel O'Brien for a temporary injunction restraining the New York Telephone Company from enforcing the order of the Public Service Commission of March 17, increasing telephone rates 28 per cent. The injunction is made returnable on March 30 at Special Term, Part I, Manhattan.

"In this order of the Commission," said the Corporation Counsel, "the city seems to be absolutely void and without legal effect whatsoever. The Commission had no power to make a temporary order. It had no power to provide for increased payment by consumers subject to future determination by the Commission and return of excess, if any."

Continuing his argument, Mr. O'Brien said:

"The Public Service Commission as late as June 1, 1921, in its report to the Legislature recommended that the law be amended giving the commission power on prima facie showing after notice and hearing to direct a temporary increase or decrease in rates pending final determination of the commission, upon such terms or security as would protect the interests both of the public and the utility in harmony with the final determination. This suggestion is incorporated in the pending Miller Bill. The commission, therefore, was unanimously of the opinion on Jan. 1, 1921, that it had no power to make an order of the character of the 28 per cent. increase order. In fact several of the opinions written by the commissioners referred to the recommendation made by them to the Legislature, but now argue with the present law, does give them the power. We do not believe that it will require much persuasion to satisfy the court that the commission usurps powers which it itself hardly three months ago requested the Legislature to give it."

DRANK HIS LIQUOR, JURY THEN FOUND BLACK NOT GUILTY

Rare Vintages From Stock on Seized Car Uncorked for Them to Sample.

MIAMI, Fla., March 25.—A LL members of the jury which tried Harry S. Black of New York in the Dade County Criminal Court yesterday on a charge of having fifty-three cases of fine liquor aboard his private car were allowed by the prosecution to drink from the seized stock. This was done in order that they might determine whether or not it was intoxicating.

The jurors availed themselves of the opportunity with eager avidity. Bottle after bottle of various rare vintages was uncorked, the jurors holding the glasses up to the light and sipping the contents like connoisseurs.

There were no women on the jury. At peace with the world, or certainly with Mr. Black, the jurors with unanimity and promptness returned a verdict of not guilty.

EDDY BROWN, NOTED VIOLINIST, WEDS A POLISH ACTRESS



HALINA BRUZOVNA

Marries Halina Bruzovna in Greenwich After Acquaintance of a Month.

Friends of Eddy Brown, of Indianapolis, one of the most eminent of American violinists, learned yesterday that two weeks ago he married Miss Halina Bruzovna, a noted Polish actress. The ceremony was performed in Greenwich, Conn., by Justice of the Peace Meade. Musician and actress had met only a month previous.

The bride belongs to the famous Modjeska family. Before the war she was the leading actress of the Warsaw State Theatre and of the Moscow Art Theatre.

N. Y. BOXING BOARD MAY LOSE SALARIES

Brundage Says Fighting Is Too Commercialized—Wants to Start on Commissioners.

ALBANY, March 25.—A bill under which the Boxing Commission may have their salaries lopped off is being considered for introduction by Assemblyman Brundage of Newburgh.

The Assemblyman has not yet definitely decided on introducing the bill, but has expressed the opinion boxing in the State is taking on too much of a commercial aspect and believes something should be done to check it.

Brundage said to-day, he believed the logical place to begin would be the commission.

MITTEN ASKS FARE RAISE TO RUN NEW PHILADELPHIA "L"

City's Return Precedes Company's Dividend, and All Transfers Retained in Plan.

PHILADELPHIA, March 25.—President Thomas E. Mitten has asked for an increased fare—the second within a year—on the entire system of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company. The proposal, submitted by Mr. Mitten at a conference with city officials yesterday, declares increased revenue is needed to enable operation of the Frankford Elevated line now nearing completion. It is estimated an eight-cent fare will be sufficient, replacing the present seven-cent and four-for-a-quarter rate.

Mr. Mitten declared operation of the Frankford "L" under present fares, would entail a deficit of \$25,000. But in urging the increased fares he does make several concessions.

The city's 5 per cent. return upon its investment in the new elevated line will take precedence over the 5 per cent. dividend on the \$30,000,000 capital stock of the company.

The P. R. T. will furnish all sub-stations, machinery, cars and car barns along all new routes, in addition to certain conduits carrying power.

The P. R. T. will enlarge its shop and maintenance facilities. Obligations taken over by the company will lessen the city's investment to the extent of \$1,313,000, while improvements guaranteed by the company will require an expenditure of between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

The present order for 7-cent fares expires April 30, and Mr. Mitten suggests the city agree to the higher rate in time to post 30 days' notice and receive authorization from the Public Service Commission to make the new fare effective May 1. Mr. Mitten promises all free transfers and 3-cent exchanges will be retained.

Fare increases in Philadelphia are temporary, pending a final valuation of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company's property. On this appraisal a permanent rate of fare will be established.

Jury Disagreed in Stolen Shoes Case.

A jury trying Fred Vance, a Middletown, N. Y., auctioneer, on a charge of receiving stolen goods, disagreed to-day and was discharged by Judge John W. Peck in the United States Court here. Vance said that a month ago a man visited him at midnight with three bags containing sixty-five pairs of new shoes and offered the lot for \$75. Vance said he bought the shoes in good faith. The Government charged the shoes had been stolen from a railroad yard.

TUGMEN STRIKE MAY BE ENDED BY WASHINGTON MOVE

Conciliator Will Be Named to Adjust Differences With the Workmen.

Steps were taken to-day to call off the strike of the employees on ocean-going tugs which went into effect yesterday and was expected to affect 150 vessels and 1,500 men. This action was taken upon receipt of a telegram from H. L. Kerwin, Director of the Bureau of Conciliation of the Department of Labor to Thomas H. Healey, head of the marine engineers, sent in reply to a telegram from Healey to Secretary Hoover. The telegram, which arrived to-day from Washington, was as follows:

"Your telegram to Secretary Hoover referred to this department. We trust no engineers or other employees will leave their positions at this time. Please write us fully exact status of situation in order that we may assign a Commissioner of Conciliation to the case. Urge upon you the importance of having your men remain at work pending the effort at conciliation."

As soon as this telegram came Healey wired to all members of the Executive Council of the Atlantic and

INSISTS M'FADDENS PRODUCE EVIDENCE

Attorney for Maid in \$500,000 Robbery Does Not Want Case Dropped.

(Special to The Evening World.) PHILADELPHIA, March 25.—Counsel for Miss. Blanche Maguit, former maid to Mrs. George H. McFadden Jr. of Villanova, who is under bail on charges of larceny and conspiracy, said to-day he would not allow the charges to be dropped quietly.

"The former maid, who was in the employ of the McFaddens for nine years, was arrested as a result of the disappearance of \$500,000 of jewels from the McFadden home last October. 'I will challenge the McFaddens to produce all the evidence they may have against Miss. Maguit,' said J. Borton Weeks, the attorney who also represented Madame Jeanne Abdelet, who was freed of similar charges Wednesday by Judge Johnson at Media on a writ of habeas corpus. 'I have heard that the McFaddens will drop the charges against their former maid,' continued Mr. Weeks. 'This will not be allowed if I can help it. We will demand a showdown.'"

Gulf Coast Marine Engineers' Association, calling them to a meeting here as promptly as it can be arranged. He said that he had no doubt the strike would be called off when the council convened, as the tugmen did not want to do anything to embarrass the Washington Administration. Similar action, he added, was expected from the masters, mates and pilots, who met last night and decided to back up the engineers in their strike. So far the strike has tied up only nine tugs and their crews, others being at sea towing coal.

LOOT FUR STORE IN 15 MINUTES, GET \$11,000 IN WRAPS

Burglars Escape While Detectives Rush to Scene When Alarm Goes Off.

Central Office detectives were making a hurried examination to-day of the premises at No. 213 West 23d street, occupied by Isador Schechter & Co., furriers, seeking clues for a burglary of what they believe to be unexplained swiftness Wednesday evening.

A burglar alarm indicator rang in the district office of the Holmes Protective Company at 6:45 Wednesday evening, showing something was amiss at the Schechter shop. Armed messengers reached the fur factory at 7 o'clock. They found the alarm had been set off by the breaking in of a rear window, opening on a one-story addition. The front door of the loft had been broken outward as had the front door of the building.

It was found that in the fifteen minutes between the setting-off of the alarm at the rear window and the arrival of the watchmen the thieves had collected and taken away thirty-five more and cashed wraps valued at \$11,000. No one was found who had seen them leaving the building. The voluminous records of burglars at Headquarters have been carefully scanned without disclosing any data as to members of the profession who have qualified as "fast workers" competent to have finished their task in the time indicated.

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